

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A branching method for an optical fiber cable containing a plurality of plastic optical fibers, which comprises cutting a desired optical fiber in the cable
5 without cutting the cable in its entirety, at a non-terminal position of the cable, to form a terminal of the fiber.
2. The branching method according to Claim 1, wherein the desired optical fiber is withdrawn from the cable and
10 then cut.
3. The branching method according to Claim 1, wherein the desired optical fiber is cut and then withdrawn from the cable.
4. The branching method according to Claim 1, wherein
15 the cable is provided with a slotted spacer, and the desired optical fiber is cut without cutting the spacer, to form the terminal of the optical fiber.
5. The branching method according to Claim 1, wherein the cable is provided with a tension member, and the
20 desired optical fiber is cut without cutting the tension member, to form the terminal of the optical fiber.
6. The branching method according to Claim 5, wherein without substantially elastically deforming the tension member, the desired optical fiber is cut to form the
25 terminal of the optical fiber.
7. The branching method according to Claim 1, wherein the branching method is a post branching method, i.e. a

method of forming the terminal of the optical fiber at an optional non-terminal position of an existing optical fiber cable.

8. The branching method according to Claim 7, wherein
5 the desired optical fiber is withdrawn from the cable and then cut.

9. The branching method according to Claim 7, wherein the desired optical fiber is cut and then withdrawn from the cable.

10 10. The branching method according to Claim 7, wherein the cable is provided with a slotted spacer, and the desired optical fiber is cut without cutting the spacer, to form the terminal of the optical fiber.

11. The branching method according to Claim 7, wherein
15 the cable is provided with a tension member, and the desired optical fiber is cut without cutting the tension member, to form the terminal of the optical fiber.

12. The branching method according to Claim 11, wherein without substantially elastically deforming the tension
20 member, the desired optical fiber is cut to form the terminal of the optical fiber.

13. The branching method according to Claim 11, wherein the terminal of the optical fiber is formed while the cable is in an extended state.

25 14. The branching method according to Claim 13, wherein the desired optical fiber is withdrawn from the cable and then cut.

15. The branching method according to Claim 13, wherein the desired optical fiber is cut and then withdrawn from the cable.

16. The branching method according to Claim 13, wherein
5 the cable is provided with a slotted spacer, and the desired optical fiber is cut without cutting the spacer, to form the terminal of the optical fiber.

17. The branching method according to Claim 13, wherein
10 the cable is provided with a tension member, and the desired optical fiber is cut without cutting the tension member, to form the terminal of the optical fiber.

18. An optical fiber cable containing a plurality of plastic optical fibers, wherein a desired optical fiber
15 in the cable is cut without cutting the cable in its entirety, at a non-terminal position of the cable, to form a terminal of the fiber.

19. An optical closure for connecting a terminal of a branch side optical fiber branched from a branch side optical fiber cable with a terminal of a connect side
20 optical fiber withdrawn from a connect side optical fiber cable; said branch side optical fiber cable being an optical fiber cable containing a plurality of plastic optical fibers; the branched portion of the branch side optical fiber cable being one formed by cutting a desired
25 optical fiber in the cable without cutting the cable in its entirety, to form a terminal of the optical fiber; said branch side optical fiber being the optical fiber

having the terminal formed by said cutting; and said optical closure being located at said branched portion of the branch side optical fiber cable and having a branch side optical fiber cable-fixing member to hold the branch side optical fiber cable, a connect side optical fiber cable-fixing member to hold the connect side optical fiber cable, and an optical fiber-connecting member to connect the terminal of the branch side optical fiber with the terminal of the connect side optical fiber.

- 10 20. The optical closure according to Claim 19, wherein the branch side optical fiber cable is provided with a tension member, and the branch side optical fiber cable-fixing member holds the branch side optical fiber cable in an extended state without substantially elastically
- 15 deforming the tension member.